

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 IGA-01 /086 W

----- 092136

R 101035Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0786

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0718

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP

SUBJECT: INDIAN EMBASSY FORMALLY DENIES INTENT TO HARM
NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 449

1. INDIAN EMBASSY FEBRUARY 7 TOOK UNUSUAL STEP OF ISSUING
FORMAL PRESS RELEASE IN WHICH IT DENIED RECENT ALLEGATION
OF ECONOMIC HARASSMENT AGAINST NEPAL THROUGH HOLD UP OF
QUOTA GOODS(REFTEL.) ACCORDING TO STATEMENT THESE PRESS
STORIES CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "MALICIOUS AND MOTIVATED
TO CAUSE HARM IN INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS."

2. PRESS RELEASE GIVES OFFICIAL INDIAN VERSION OF EVENTS
WHICH ACCORDS WITH WHAT INDIAN EMBOFFS HAD TOLD US
EARLIER. AS REGARDS FUTURE SHIPMENTS OF QUOTA GOODS TO NEPAL,
STATEMENT NOTES THAT "NEPAL'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER ALLOCATION
OF CERTAIN ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR 1975 HAS ONLY RECENTLY
BEEN RECEIVED . . . INDIA WILL, NO DOUBT, CONSIDER NEPAL'S
REQUEST IN THE LIGHT OF THE AVAILABILITY POSITION AND HER
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PRESSING DOMESTIC NEEDS WHICH FOR OBVIOUS REASONS CANNOT

BE IGNORED OR NEGLECTED." EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE NOTES THAT FACILITIES FOR TRANSIT GOODS TO NEPAL HAVE BEEN PROVIDED STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRADE AND TRANSIT AGREEMENT OF 1971 AND THAT SPECIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE SPEEDY DELIVERY OF COMMODITIES NECESSARY FOR CONONATION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY DENIAL GOES LONG WAY TO SET PAST RECORD STRAIGHT. WE SEE NOTHING IN THE ACCOUNT WHICH WOULD CONFLICT WITH HMG VERSION REPORTED REFTEL. NONETHELESS, IT WILL DO LITTLE TO ALLAY FEARS IN KATHMANDU THAT INDIA WILL TAKE TOUGH LINE WITH RESPECT TO 1975 QUOTAS ON GROUNDS, NO DOUBT VALID, THAT VARIOUS ESSENTIAL GOODS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN INDIA AND ARE REQUIRED TO FILL DOMESTIC NEEDS.
CARGO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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